up of two main divisions separated by a range of mountains, the Tien Shan. That south of the Tien Shan is geographically an extension of the Gobi Desert. Most of it constitutes a huge basin drained by the Tarim River eastward into a marshy lake, the Lob Nor. In many places once extensive oases supporting prosperous populations have become desert in historic times, but whether this indicates progressive desiccation is still debated by travellers and experts on climate. To the north of the Tien Shan stretch more desert and semi-desert plains and valleys (not as forbidding as the Tarim basin) known politically as Hi or Kuldja and Zungaria. To the west and northwest, mountains form a natural boundary between the New Dominion and Central Asia. Across Sinkiang have run for untold centuries overland trade routes between China and the outside world. One main route follows the northern side of the Tarim basin to such cities as Kashgar and Yarkand, at the eastern foot of the Pamirs—the barrier between China and India and the trans-Caspian regions. Another leads north of the Tien Shan to Kuldja, near the head of the Ili River, and thence down the valley of the Hi to the steppes east of the Aral Sea.

THE OUTLYING SECTIONS! MONGOLIA

To the north of China proper and to the north and east of the New Dominion lies Mongolia. Much of Mongolia is a table-land of from three to five thousand feet elevation. The area immediately north of the Eighteen Provinces—the so-called "Inner Mongolia" and divided politically into the new provinces (formerly the special administrative districts)

Jehol, Chahar, Suiyiian, and Ninghsia—is much of it only semi-arid, a transitional region between the lands to the south and the Gobi. The Gobi and the adjacent Ordos are for the most part rocky, gravelly, and sandy wastes traversed by low mountains and hills. To the north and west steppes, mountains, and valleys occupy much of what is called Outer Mongolia. A good deal of the North and West possesses grazing land and parts of it are fairly well watered by rivers. The higher mountains in the Northwest are forested.